

\*\*\*Please forward this information to your principals and school councils!



# KDE-mail

## SBDM Council News

**November 7, 2005**

Welcome!

### Division Director's Notes

If it's November in Kentucky that means one thing—football, right? Not for school council members. November means it's time to analyze CATS results and start to make decisions about revising school improvement plans. It's not enough to have school committees engage in and complete this task. School council members need to take an active role in the analysis process and in the discussion that should center on priority needs, goals, and achievement gap targets. Councils, as school leaders, set the tone and the agenda for the entire school. I believe that their leadership can have a profound effect on student achievement if the culture and structure of the school is focused on the collective capacity to reach student achievement goals. Remember, "a proficient school council always keeps its focus on student achievement."

### Trying to Close Achievement Gaps? Read On! (from *Getting Excited About Data* by Edie L. Holcomb, pgs. 168-171)

Here are some highlights that Holcomb presents in the book:

The increasing body of literature on gap-closing schools includes both research and best practice.

Gap closing schools:

1. Face reality and attempt to change their world.
2. Are culturally responsive. Adults acknowledge the legitimacy of the cultural heritage of every child and learn enough about it to build meaningful bridges.
3. Provide greater opportunity to learn by extending learning time through before- and after- school programs, summer school, and sometimes-even Saturday sessions as well as through accelerated opportunities during other breaks in the school



### @ KDE:

[Orin.Simmerman@education.ky.gov](mailto:Orin.Simmerman@education.ky.gov)

[Cheri.Meadows@education.ky.gov](mailto:Cheri.Meadows@education.ky.gov)

[Judith.Littleton@education.ky.gov](mailto:Judith.Littleton@education.ky.gov)

[Erin.McGee@education.ky.gov](mailto:Erin.McGee@education.ky.gov)



- calendar.
4. Consider every moment an opportunity to learn, from social interaction on the playground to "books on the bus," which makes productive use of time en route.
  5. Expose every child to a rigorous curriculum. Programs are varied and enriched with learning experiences that challenge and stimulate learning beyond the basics.
  6. Adhere to core learning principles and coherence in systems. The taught curriculum must be tightly aligned with essential skills and standards for high quality intellectual performance, with support provided to ensure students can and do learn.
  7. Include adults who share the children's culture.

Given the challenge of time and urgency to accelerate learning to close the gap, teachers do not have the luxury of spending time on topics and activities they enjoy; they must find joy in effectively teaching what the students most need.

### **Kentucky Department of Education Achievement Gap Coordinators:**

*Western Area:* Kay Brown

*South Central Area:* Carol Christian

*Northern Area:* Louise Byrd

*Fayette/Jefferson Counties:* Rina Gratz

*Eastern Area:* Sue Davis

[Achievement Gap  
Coordinators' Website](#)

To find more information about the services they offer, a map detailing their coverage area, e-mail addresses, and much more, please visit their website.

### **Powerful Alliance: Educators & Parents**

Powerful Alliance: Educators & Parents is a one day workshop presented by the Center for Parent Leadership at the Prichard Committee enables educators to work more effectively with parents to impact student achievement.

The objectives of this workshop are to:

- Identify meaningful ways parents help teachers improve student achievement
- Identify barriers to parent involvement and strategies to overcome them
- Assess your school's atmosphere for parent involvement

- Identify ways parents can engage other parents
- Develop an action plan to engage parents in your school to improve student achievement

For more information contact Alice Nelson at 859-233-9849, ext. 232 or [anelson@prichardcommittee.org](mailto:anelson@prichardcommittee.org).

## Question of the Month

Q: How do we remove a school council member?

A: The vast majority of council members are dedicated servant leaders for children; however, in the event a council member is abusing the position or neglecting responsibility, removal may become necessary.

### Removal of Council Members

#### **160.347 Removal of school council member.**

“A member of a school council may be removed from the council for cause, after an opportunity for hearing before the local board, by a vote of four-fifths (4/5) of the membership of a board of education after the recommendation of the chief state school officer pursuant to KRS 156.132. Written notices setting out the charges for removal shall be spread on the minutes of the board and given to the member of the school council.”

Effective: July 15, 1994

History: Created 1994 Ky. Acts ch. 103, sec. 2, effective July 15, 1994

### **The Process:**

1. The principal should notify the member in writing first, and give them a time period in which to respond if they wish to remedy the situation.
2. If no response is received, have the principal send them an official letter quoting the statute and let them know that removal proceedings will be started.
3. This evidence will need to be taken to your local board, and upon a 4/5 vote of your board to remove the council member, it can then be taken on to the commissioner.
4. Contact Cheri Meadows (502-564-4201 or [Cheri.Meadows@education.ky.gov](mailto:Cheri.Meadows@education.ky.gov)) once the local steps are finished so that she can contact the commissioner's office and get the item on the Kentucky Board of Education agenda.

## Reminder

Return only the “Certificate of Distribution” to the Office of the Attorney General c/o:

Jean Ann Myatt  
Office of the Attorney General  
700 Capital Avenue  
Frankfort, KY 40601

Retain the “Certificate[s] of Receipt” on your agency’s premises as your agency’s records.